

2 July 1968

Logistic Developments in the Panhandle of North Vietnam, 24-30 June 1968

Activities South of the 19th Parallel

Armed Reconnaissance Sorties

This Week (24-30 June) *

388 sorties per day

58 percent in Route Package I

26 percent in Route Package II

18 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)

Last Week (17-23 June)

353 sorties per day

49 percent in Route Package I

31 percent in Route Package II

20 percent in Route Package III
(below 19° North)

For the Period 1 January - 30 June

210 sorties per day

59 percent in Route Package I

25 percent in Route Package II

16 percent in Route Package III **

Weather ***

Above 19°: Generally poor weather prevailed above the 20th Parallel, while generally good weather was present between 19 and 20 degrees north through 27 June. Poor weather, however, blanketed the area during the latter part of the

* The rate of attack listed for the period 24-30 June may be as much as five percent below the actual rate because some reports from operating units in South-east Asia are not available at the publication time of this report.

** Beginning 1 April nearly all sorties have been flown south of the 19th Parallel.

*** Good weather - 10,000 feet or more ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Fair weather - 5-10 thousand feet ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Poor weather - Less than 5,000 feet ceiling, and/or five miles or less visibility.

USAF and DIA review(s) completed.

period.

Below 19⁰: Good weather prevailed over the area from 24-28 June. The weather was poor the balance of the week.

Highways

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Trucks</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (24-30 June)	661	134	88
Last Week (17-23 June)	1024	236	114
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	696	103	83
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	485	69	64

Remarks:

Attacks against the North Vietnamese highway system continued heavy this past week with pilots reporting numerous strikes against bridges, ferry bypasses, and truck parks located generally on the prime infiltration routes leading south into Laos and the DMZ.

Despite relatively good weather and an increased rate of attack, pilot reports of motor vehicles sighted and destroyed dropped considerably below last week's high figures. The current week's totals, still however, remained at a comparable level with the weekly average totals observed since 1 April (see above table). There were no large concentrations or truck convoys of 30 or more vehicles sighted this week, and a fewer number of sightings of five or more vehicles were observed compared with the previous week. The heaviest traffic sighted during the week continued to be observed on the major inland routes, including Routes 72, 74, 82, 151, 15, and 137, which together form the principle north-south corridor for vehicle movement from the 19th Parallel into Laos.

Photography detected approximately 50 trucks, 32 of which were

standing in a truck park, on a small segment of Route 113, located just west of Vinh and adjacent to the heavily used Song Ca waterway. These vehicles are probably being used to shuttle supplies away from the numerous water-road trans-shipment points along the Song Ca and the nearby storage areas around Vinh further southward to destinations across the DMZ and southern Laos borders.

Sightings by pilots and photography continue to reveal continuing road repair and improvement activity along several of the more heavily traveled routes used for infiltration. Just above the Laotian border, within North Vietnam, pilots sighted personnel and heavy road equipment in operation on Routes 1036 and 137. Further north, during the night of 25 June pilots also sighted what appeared to be large work groups making repairs to Route 82 south of Vinh. In addition, a few miles north of Vinh four bulldozers were sighted parked alongside Route 15. This equipment was sighted at the same location where six to eight bulldozers were observed last week.

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Roadwatch Teams

<u>Access Roads into Laos</u>	<u>Trucks Counted</u>		
	<u>Latest Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>	<u>Weekly Average 1968</u>
	(21-29 June)	(14-20 June)	
Route 15 (near Mu Gia Pass)	NA	98S; 55N	203S; 168N
Route 912	NA	NA	NA

Remarks:

During the latest period, the team on Route 15 in North Vietnam located nearest to the Laos border issued reports covering only a four hour period. Another roadwatch team, located farther north near a road junction, reported that from 21-29 June it saw 150 southbound and 171 northbound trucks. However, this traffic probably does not represent traffic moving exclusively to and from Laos.

There were no reports received from roadwatch teams along Route 912 during the latest period.

Railroads

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Railroad Cars</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week	15	4	4
Last Week	33	3	10
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	15	1	3
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	33	3	6

Remarks:

Air strikes against the railroad system continued during the past week with the rail bridges at Vinh the major targets. These bridges have been under constant attacks over the last three months and have had the tracks removed possibly to facilitate truck traffic in the area. Other strikes during the week were directed at railroad bridges and rolling stock on the tramway, with most attacks concentrated near Bai Duc Thom, a key storage/transshipment area at the junction of Routes 15 and 152. Most of the tram-type rail cars sighted during the week were observed just south of this juncture. In addition, past photography has

revealed small trains consisting of trucks with flanged wheels for motive power and four or five small meter-gauge flatcars heading south from this point.

Waterways

	Preliminary Pilots Reports on Watercraft		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (24-30 June)	312	26	53
Last Week (17-23 June)	405	33	44
Weekly Average (1968)	235	32	49

Remarks:

Watercraft activity continued to be centered along the waterways in the Vinh area. Photography reveals the continued use of numerous WBLC, including large barges, on the Song Ca and at the transshipment areas along this waterway.

Watercraft activity was also noted on the Song Troc. An attack against a concentration of 20 craft on this water routes resulted in secondary fires which indicated the barges were carrying POL.

Logistical Activity Between the 19th and 20th Parallels

A continued lack of photographic coverage between the 19th and 20th Parallels has prevented our obtaining intelligence on specific logistical activities in this region. The evidence set forth above regarding the area South of the 19th Parallel, however, suggests that these activities are also continuing at a high rate between the 19th and 20th Parallels

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